

Influx of Smokers (*Polytelis anthopeplus*).—On August 24, 1954, about 50-60 Smokers were observed at the 18-mile peg along Forrest Road, Armadale. The flock was moving in a westerly direction. Another two were observed in flight in the vicinity of Jandakot on August 6, 1954. It appears from reports over the last few years that this species is gradually extending its range southwards.

—W. C. FORD, Fremantle.

Reef Heron in Fremantle Harbour.—It may be of interest to note the sighting of the Reef Heron (*Demigretta sacra*) within the Inner Harbour, Fremantle. One bird, an individual of the dark phase, was seen at sunset on September 17, 1954, flying seawards adjacent to C Shed. Recognition was definite and easy as I had previously observed the species on three occasions at Point Peron. On the last, May 13, 1954, two birds were studied through a telescope for about 5 minutes whilst they were not 30 yards off.

—G. CATTERMOLE, Fremantle.

Large Concentration of *Neophema elegans* at Neeralin Pool.—At 9 a.m. on February 20, 1954, I disturbed the largest flock of Elegant Grass-Parrots (*Neophema elegans*) that I have ever seen.

Quick counting of the birds whilst they were on the wing, revealed that there were approximately 100 individuals.

The situation was in partially cleared scrub land beside the Great Southern Railway, two miles north-west of Neeralin Pool, which is 18 miles south of Narrogin.

This place is rather flat, and consequently somewhat wet during the winter months.

—BRIAN V. TEAGUE, Narrogin.

Quenda near Perth.—Cycling along the Welshpool-Lesmurdie Road during Christmas week, 1953, I passed, close to the Industrial Centre, what I thought to be a dead cat lying alongside the road. I had gone two or three chains when I remembered it had a rat-like tail so I went back to investigate. It was a Quenda or Short-nosed Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*). The animal bore no sign of injury but as I had no means of getting it to the Museum I left it on the roadside. I mentioned finding it to several Welshpool residents later and all said they had never seen one.

Recently my daughter, at Roleystone, saw a Quenda near her house in that district.

—J. W. BAGGS, East Cannington.

Occurrence of the Great-winged Petrel at Wyalkatchem.—On October 22, 1954, during the Northam Wildlife Show, Mr. C. G. Jessup brought in for identification a petrel which had been picked up the previous day by Mr. W. L. McClure on the railway line one mile west of Wyalkatchem. The bird proved to be the Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*). It was fed and subsequently released.

This locality may now be added to the list given in Serventy and Whittell's *Handbook* (p. 100) — Maddington, Northam, Cunderdin, Nungarin and Mukinbudin — and which these authors believe to point to the existence of a breeding area, hitherto undiscovered, on the west coast, possibly at the Abrolhos Islands. There was a very strong westerly wind blowing at the time of the Wyalkatchem find.

—W. H. BUTLER, Inglewood.

"Clifton Downs" as a Collecting Locality for Birds.—In 1905 G. C. Shortridge, in the course of a collecting trip in Western Australia on behalf of the British Museum of Natural History, had a base on the Gaseoyne River which in the published account of the birds of the expedition (by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *The Ibis*, 1909, p. 650; 1910, p. 156) was referred to as Clifton Downs Station. There is no such station at present in Western Australia but older pastoral maps show two Clifton Downs in the Gaseoyne district — Lower Clifton Downs about 100 miles east of Carnarvon and Upper Clifton Downs some 120 miles further east, above the great triangular bend of the Gaseoyne. The former is now known as Bidgemia Station and the latter as Landor Station. According to records at the Lands and Surveys Department in Shortridge's time only Lower Clifton Downs was in existence, then known simply as Clifton Downs. Thus the type locality for *Climacteris wellsi* Grant should be referred to in modern records as Bidgemia Station.

—I. C. CARNABY, Carnarvon.

Early Nesting of Little Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*).—This species has been found to be an early breeder in the Bibra Lake area and hence, no doubt, this would apply for the remainder of the Swan coastal plain.

The earliest record for 1952 was a nest with one fresh egg on July 16. Several other nests were examined but the owners of these nests had not commenced egg laying. On July 26 a nest with one large young was found.

During 1953 this species must have commenced nesting in the early part of June, since on July 5 we observed a nest with a young which could be seen protruding above the nest. Three other nests were also found on the same day, one of which contained a partly incubated egg. Again on July 11 a nest was found to contain one large young and a second nest contained a freshly laid egg.

This year (1954) the wattle-bird appeared to be a little late with nesting activities which may have been due to the particularly dry May and June months. During July several empty nests were found but only one nest contained a young.

It may also be of interest to note that we have records of this bird nesting to the latter parts of December and this would place the Little Wattle-bird in the category of long-season breeders.

—J. R. and W. C. FORD, Fremantle.